



NEWS RELEASE  
*Office of the  
United States Attorney  
for the  
District of Nebraska*  
**Deborah R. Gilg**

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May 5, 2010

United States Attorney Deborah R. Gilg and the Lincoln Police Department, Lancaster County Sheriff's Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Columbus Police Department, and the Lancaster County Attorney's Office announce the following information for the attention of the media:

**Event Triggering this Release:**

On May 4, 2010, a Lincoln man was sentenced to five years and ten months (70 months) in federal prison for his involvement in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine in the Lincoln area between February of 2007 and March of 2008. Following the prison term, Aurelio Valdovinos Sanchez will serve five years on supervised release. He was also ordered to forfeit a 2003 Hummer and \$62,510.00 in cash to the United States and to pay a \$100 special assessment.

In August of 2007, a confidential informant working with the Columbus Police Department purchased methamphetamine from a third party who was driving a 2003 Hummer registered to Aurelio Valdovinos Sanchez. In October of 2007, an undercover Lincoln Police officer purchased methamphetamine from the same third party who was again driving the Hummer registered to Valdovinos Sanchez. In November of 2007, the officer purchased approximately three ounces of methamphetamine from the third party in the Hummer registered to Valdovinos Sanchez. At that point, the third party introduced the officer to Valdovinos Sanchez and told the officer to deal with Valdovinos Sanchez from that point on, because the third party was leaving town. The officer purchased approximately one ounce of methamphetamine directly from Valdovinos Sanchez about a week later. In early December of 2007, the officer purchased approximately one ounce of methamphetamine from another person in a delivery arranged through Valdovinos Sanchez. On March 26, 2008, a search warrant was executed at Valdovinos Sanchez's residence in Lincoln. During the search officers found a total of \$62,510.00 in cash in the residence.

**Name of Defendant:** Aurelio Valdovinos Sanchez

**AKA:**

**Age:** 42

**City of residence:** Lincoln

**Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty** (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Count I: Conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled substance in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846. The possible penalty is not less than five years nor more than 40 years in prison and a fine of up to \$2,000,000. Following any term of imprisonment, there would be a term of supervised release of not less than four years. There is also a \$100 special assessment. Count V: Forfeiture of 2003 Hummer, which was used or intended to be used to facilitate the conspiracy alleged in Count I or which represented proceeds of that conspiracy, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853. Count VI: Forfeiture of \$62,510 cash, which was used or intended to be used to facilitate the conspiracy alleged in Count I or which represented proceeds of that conspiracy, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853. The possible penalty for Counts V and VI is forfeiture of the listed property to the United States. (Counts II thru IV, which charged three separate counts of distribution of methamphetamine related to the undercover buys, were dismissed pursuant to a plea agreement.)

**Specific Location of Alleged Crime:** Lincoln

**Location of Arrest:** Lincoln

**Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug:** Valdovinos Sanchez was held responsible for the distribution of at least 500 grams (approximately 18 ounces) but less than 1.5 kilograms (approximately three pounds) of methamphetamine.

**Others Charged in Same Scheme:** None

**Relevant Dates:**

**Date of Alleged Crime:** Between on or about February 1, 2007, and March 26, 2008

**Federal Arrest Date:** March 27, 2008 (arrested on state charges on March 26, 2008)

**Date Complaint Issued:** March 27, 2008

**Indictment Returned Date:** April 21, 2008

**Initial Appearance Date:** On Complaint: March 31, 2008; On Indictment: May 1, 2008

**Plea or Trial and Date(s):** Pled guilty on June 8, 2008

**Sentencing Date:** May 4, 2010

**Next Court Hearing Type and Date:** none

**Assigned Magistrate Judge:** The Honorable David L. Piester (retired)

**Held without Bond, or Released from Custody:** held without bond from March 27, 2008 until July 2, 2008, when defendant was released on conditions

**In Continuous Custody Since:**

**Assigned District Court Judge:** The Honorable Richard G. Kopf

**Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release:** SEF